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NO. 1211—P. 6/8

NO. 0921 P. 2/9

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln No. : 10/729,230  
Applicant(s): Masayuki USHIKU et al.  
Filed : December 4, 2003  
For : INK-JET RECORDING SHEET  
Art Unit : 1774  
Examiner : Pamela R. Schwartz  
Docket No. : 03723/HG  
Confirm. No.: 9225  
Customer No.: 01933

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.132

Masayuki Ushiku, declares that I am the sole inventor of the invention described and claimed in the above-referenced application.

I was graduated from Aoyama Gakuin University in March 1992, with a Master's Degree in Chemistry. Since April 1992, I have been employed by Konica Corporation, now Konica Minolta IJ Corporation, the assignee of the present application. I have been engaged in research and development of photographic materials and Inkjet medias.

The following experiments were done under my supervision and control.

As evidence that the sheets selected in my earlier declarations are representative of the best results expected for Katoh et al. US2002/0130943 and provide evidence of the superiority of the ink-jet recording sheet of the present claims to those of Katoh, the remaining ink-jet recording sheets of Katoh which were not tested were prepared and evaluated for "crack resistance." The remaining sheets are as follows:

Nos. 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 15, 18, 24, 29, 32, 38, 25A, 25B, 25C, 41-43, 45-48, 53, 57 and 58. These are designated as inventive samples of Katoh.

All of them were prepared in the same manner described in Katoh ([0155] - [0230] of Katoh). The "Crack Resistance" of these sheets was evaluated in the same manner described in the present specification at page 37, lines 11-19.

The results of the evaluation is that all of the tested sheets were ranked as "C". While the samples of the present invention were proved to have "Crack Resistance" as either "A" or "B" (see Table 2 at page 39). It is clearly demonstrated that Samples of the present invention are unexpectedly superior to Samples of Katoh.

One of the reasons resulting in the above-described difference is considered caused by the difference of the silica

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used in the ink-jet recording sheets. Katoh uses "gas phase method silica" ([0104] and [0158] of Katoh), while the silica particles of the present claim are prepared by precipitation method or a gelling method" as is required in Claim 1.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001, of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: April. 14, 2006

Masayuki Ushiku.  
Masayuki Ushiku